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(54) Title   Computer-readable medium

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1   APPLICATION Nº

COMPUTER-READABLE MEDIUM

This invention relates to a computer-readable medium.

5   On January 1, 1999, the European Union will introduce the new
single european currency, the Euro, which will overnight
become one of the world's most important trading currencies.
This is an unprecedented event in modern times. This poses
an immediate problem to business throughout the world; there

10   is no key on any standard computer keyboard corresponding to
the new symbol for the Euro currency unit (herein referred to
as the Eurosymbol).

A typical personal computer installation includes system unit

15   and a visual display unit and keyboard both attached to the
system unit. Striking a key, or a combination of keys at the
same time, on the keyboard gives rise to a single character
being displayed on the screen of the VDU. In general, the
character associated with a given keystroke(s) will depend on

20   the particular program or application being run on the
computer at that time. In particular, if a word processing
program is being run, the character associated with the
keystroke will depend on the font chosen. Many font types
are well known, such as Times New Roman, Arial, Courier, etc.

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A method of implementing a font for use in a computer word
processing program is to provide a file, either on the
computer hard disk or on a diskette readable from the
computer's disk drive, which defines each character of the

30   font in the particular typographic style of the font, e.g.
Times New Roman, etc., and associates each character thus
defined with a particlar key or combination of keys on the

keyboard. These days the character/key associations are to a large extent standardised, and the standard associations are indicated by actually inscribing the assigned character on each key, leading to the familiar QWERTY keyboard, with minor

5   variations for languages other than English.

The word processing program reads this font file on startup, and subsequently every time a keystroke is performed the corresponding character in the file will be displayed on the

10   screen. The output from this word processing program can in general be downloaded to a printer to produce a hard copy of the document.

Although some of the lesser used keys may differ from

15   keyboard to keyboard, especially in different counties, there is, as noted above, no key on any standard computer keyboard corresponding to the new Eurosymbol.

Accordingly, this invention provides a computer-readable

20   medium having a font file stored thereon of which one of the font characters is the Eurosymbol.

An example of a suitable font is shown in the accompanying drawing, where the Eurosymbol is shown at top left. In an

25   embodiment of the invention, this font is coded in the format specified for the Windows operating system, versions 3 and higher and 95 and higher, and stored on a diskette. By virtue of its position in the font, the Eurosymbol will replace the upper case character (¬) normally associated with

30   the key at top left of the standard keyboard, next to the "1/!" key, and hereinafter referred to as the Eurokey. This key is redundant in most Windows 95 word processing

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applications. Thus, when the font is loaded into the
computer and selected for a particular word processing
application, pressing SHIFT + the Eurokey will cause the
Eurosymbol to be displayed.

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To indicate to the user of the computer that the Eurokey is
now associated with the Eurosymbol, the diskette containing
the font file may be sold as a package together with a cap,
preferably made of plastics material, which fits snugly over
10 the Eurokey and is inscribed with the Eurosymbol.
Alternatively, the package may contain an adhesive label,
also inscribed with the Eurosymbol, which may be stuck over
the symbols normally appearing on the Eurokey. The label may
also be partially transparent to indicate the original
15 functions of the key.

The invention is not limited to the embodiment described
herein which may be varied within the scope of the appended
claims.

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CLAIMS

1.   A computer-readable medium having a font file stored
5   thereon of which one of the font characters is the
Eurosymbol.

2.   A computer-readable medium as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the medium is a magnetic diskette.
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3.   A package containing a computer-readable medium as
claimed in claim 1 or 2 and an element for attachment to that
key of a computer keyboard which generates the Eurosymbol
when depressed, the element bearing an image of the
15   Eurosymbol.

4.   A package as claimed in claim 3, wherein the said
element is a cap which fits over the said key.

20   5.   A package as claimed in claim 3, wherein the said
element is an adhesive label.